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slightest probability of finding any. He mentioned one or two cases. One is a small island at the east end of Ceram, called Kilwaru, about a quarter of a mile long and fifty yards wide, consisting entirely of coral-rock and sand, almost perfectly level, the highest part being only four feet above high-water mark. The island is thickly inhabited, and in the middle of the main street, as it were, there are three or four wells of most excellent water. He stopped there himself a day, and got water from the wells, and drank it. The circumstance could hardly be accounted for except on the supposition that the coral-rock had some filtering power, by which the salt was separated from the water. On another occasion, he lost by accident two of his men upon a small uninhabited island. The boat, a native prow, broke her anchor while the men were ashore, and drifted away, the wind and the current preventing her return. It was a perfectly flat island, about a mile in diameter, not more than 4 or 5 feet above the sea, and consisting entirely of coral-rock. He sent a party in a boat to search for the missing men, but, owing to the stormy weather, they were not able to reach the island until a month afterwards. The men were found alive and in good health; for, by digging down through the rock with a hatchet until they got to the level of the sea, they obtained abundance of water, and thus, with the aid of shell-fish, they supported life. He had no doubt, if Mr. Cameron had dug down through the solid rock until he reached the sea-level, he would have found water. With regard to the other island, Puloweh, which he described as having a clay soil, no doubt an abundance of water existed there; the luxuriant vegetation that he spoke of must have been supported by an abundance of fresh water.

Dr. SEEMANN quite agreed with Mr. Crawfurd, that it would require an immense number of cocoa-nut trees to supply a population of 5000 people. The subject of "toddy" was an interesting one, and deserving of investigation. Although the Polynesian race is supposed to have come from the Malay Archipelago, yet it is very singular they did not carry with them the knowledge of making this drink. Cocoa-nut trees are very abundant there, and that makes it all the more singular. They have no intoxicating drinks in the South Sea Islands, except a mixture of kava (a kind of pepper) and water, which is the nearest approach they have to anything of the kind. The New Caledonians are a nation of water-drinkers; and one of the greatest anomalies that can be pointed out is the fact that this water-drinking race are great cannibals, and vicious in many other respects.

The second Paper was—

2. *A Geological Expedition to the West Coast of Otago, New Zealand.* By JAMES HECTOR, ESQ., M.D., Provincial Geologist.

DR. HECTOR started from Otago on the 20th of May, 1863, in a yacht, to explore the numerous inlets on the S.W. coast of the Middle Island. Early in August he examined the head of Milford Sound with a view to discover if any pass existed which might form a practicable road between this harbour and the inhabited country to the east of the New Zealand Alps. He found, however, the end of the valley surrounded by precipitous mountains 5000 feet in height, without any signs of a "saddle" by which they could be crossed. Further to the north he discovered, whilst searching for the Awarua River of the Admiralty chart, the mouth of a considerable stream, called Kaduku by the Maories, entering Martin's Bay. The entrance was concealed from view, seaward, by a long sandspit and a deceptive appearance of breakers, but, within, the river was about a quarter of a mile in width, and the shallowest part of the bar had ten feet of water. Four miles upwards it flowed out of a lake one or two miles in width, and ten or twelve miles in length. After satisfying himself that this might form a harbour, and a good site for a settlement, he proceeded to the head of the lake, and finding there a valley stretching in a southerly direction, he left the yacht and commenced an exploration on foot. He quitted the lake on the 23rd of September, and on the 4th of October arrived at Queenstown, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, having succeded in finding a transitable route. The distance from the Kakapo Lake (from which the river Kaduku flows) to the Wakatipu, by the most practicable line, was about 50 miles. Dr. Hector, on arriving at Queenstown, sent men to clear the track he had explored, and proceeded himself to Dunedin to report his discovery to the Superintendent.

The third Paper consisted of—

3. *A Narrative of a Journey along the Western Coast of Middle Island, New Zealand.* By Albert Walker, Esq.

This was an account of a hazardous journey on foot undertaken by the Author and two companions in 1863. They crossed the "Saddle" from Christchurch, and descending the Teramakau, marched along the sea-shore from the mouth of that river as far as the Wanganui. The author concluded by stating his belief that his was the first party of white men who had reached so far as the Wanganui, by travelling along the western shores.

The President reminded the Society of the labours of Dr. Hector in the northern portions of the Rocky Mountains, as the Geologist in Captain Palliser's expedition. He was an admirable surveyor, uniting in his own person the qualities of a good topographer and an excellent geologist. In the paper, extracts from which had just been read, he entered very fully into the causes of the formation of the deep sounds and depressions in New Zealand. He seemed to be of opinion that ice possessed the power of excavating deep basins in hard rocks, so as to form lakes. He could not say that he agreed with Dr. Hector on that point; and were this the Geological instead of the Geographical Society, he should feel obliged to dispute those conclusions. At present he would only reiterate his conviction that with respect to qualifications as a physical geographer, and ability to develope the mineral wealth of what he might call the great Scotch colony of Otago, the chief town of which was called Dunedin after Edinburgh, there did not exist a man more capable of doing justice to the colony than his friend Dr. Hector. The other paper, by Mr.